The Call Letter

March, 2023
Volume 49 #3

HARLEY PERKINS

DEC 1928 – DEC 2022

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009) patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489) edtomp@gmail.com
Recording Secretary Scott Thomas wst123@comcast.net
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Call Letter Editor Dick Karman Relivingradio@karmans.net
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Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639 Beaverton

Vice President Notes

From Franklin Ouchida

The March Meeting (March 4) will have a Tech Talk by Sonny Clutter on 3 tube Radios, because the feature of the Month is "3" which includes 3 Tube Radios.

Remember we are on line every Wednesday night. Join us at 7 pm Pacific time every Wednesday for WRNZ (Wednesday Radio Nights on Zoom) just as close as your computer or phone.

If you haven't paid your 2023 dues- They're DUE! Pay dues at meetings or on line using the family and friends option of PayPal at NWVRS.ORG@gmail.com please use Friends and Family option.

We also need Tech Talks for meetings (in person or on Zoom). Please let me know if we can count on you!

The 50th Anniversary year of NWVRS is just around the corner! The committee will start planning soon. If you want input let me know or join the committee. We need your opinion.

Please join the 50th anniversary committee.

Meeting Minutes

By Scott Thomas, Secretary

The 2/11/2023 Meeting of the NWVRS was called to order at 9:30 AM by President Pat Kagi. The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There was one new member and one "future member."

Health & Welfare:
Health concerns: Ray Holland, & board member Mike McCrow

Ride Share: Lynda Glaspey is willing to bring members from the Forest Grove/Cornelius areas

Remembrance: Wayne Limbaugh has passed away, memorial service in Google Groups/Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:
Audit was conducted and no exceptions found.
Jim Mason Fund balance rising to around $46,500.
Checking balance around $12,000
Last Auction netted the club around $2,700
Reminder to club members Digital Newsletter dues are $20.00, Print Newsletter dues are $25.00

Leads and Needs:
Pat has a source for Crosley "Color Radio" knobs.
Replacement knobs are $5.00 and are 3D printed by Mike Farabee @ Columbia Springs

Old Business: **Tesla City Stories** Live theater show lobby display was well done, Linda Glaspey made a Display Board for the society. The club pays admission, next show is March 10th.

New Business: March Meeting will be the first Saturday, March 4th. The society will buy two smaller white boards with stands to give us the large display and compact storage.

World Radio Day: February 13th
100th anniversary of Benson High School and KBPS. We need volunteers to attend the celebration for KBPS and Benson!

April Swap Meet: Table Reservations are being taken by contacting Scott Thomas, Email: wst123@comcast.net or by calling or texting 503-341-2385

Monthly Feature: Two Tube Radios. Sonny Clutter brought two two-tube radios, one was an Arvin metal two radio and the

second was a “Private Ear”. Starting in May members are encouraged to bring a crystal radio set of any vintage. A winner will be picked and awarded a Ribbon for 1st Place.

Tube of the Month: 2A3, See February Call Letter
Future Swap Meets: Rickreal and SeaPac
Meeting was Adjourned around 11:10.-39 members in attendance.
Training Session: Moved to March on the All American 5

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President’s Message

By Pat Kagi, President

I want to remind everyone that the next meeting will be on Saturday, March 4th. For years, the Mike and Key Annual Swap Meet conflicted with our March meeting time and we always had a much smaller turn out. Starting in 2023 and going forward, we won’t have that conflict anymore as NWVRS will always meet on the 1st Saturday in March. Be sure to attend both events.

This spring, we are looking to start up the Open Home event again. This is where members host a small get together to have coffee and donuts at their home and show off their collection. Be sure to let us know if you wish to host this event. Don’t forget to ask your spouse for permission first!

NOTE: Help make The 50th Anniversary of NWVRS special! We need your opinion on this momentous anniversary. Please join the 50th anniversary committee.

The ***Tesla City Stories*** live theater shows are in full swing and we are looking for volunteers to show off their radios in the lobby, talk to the public about vintage radio and enjoy a night of entertainment. It is in downtown Portland “old Church” venue.

Harley Perkins-

1928-2022

The Society's first president and founding member, Harley Perkins, passed away in December 2022, (according to Harriet, his wife of nearly 50 years). Harley was 94 years old. He was here when the society began, and according to some, he was the impetus for the organizational structure. He was appointed the first President; he drafted the original constitution (although amended through the years); he recruited and appointed the first board of directors. Some recount that it was Harley who sided against the name chosen by Bilbie: "Historic Radio Club of America." He also favored the use of the words "vintage" and "society" with Art Redman and others. He was instrumental in the desire to have monthly meetings and to have "Show and Tell" at each meeting. It was under Harley that the society decided to have two swap meets each year.

Harley was not in the Northwest for all of the last 50 years. He and his wife lived in Boston from 1982 to 1999 and while there he belonged to the Mid Atlantic Antique Radio Club, the American Wireless Association, and the Radio History Society. He was active in MAARC and volunteered at their museum and wrote for their newsletter. Harley not only "chased" old radios he was also in pursuit of Pipe Organs, specifically tracker organs (a mechanism not a brand). While in Boston he lived near the inner harbor and was welcomed as an organist at the Methodist church which had a tracker-style antique pipe organ. He practiced several days a week

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Harley: The early days

Harley Perkins developed an early interest in radios. In the late 1930s he recounted how he rode his bicycle to the public library to study a book on radio, learning about the parts that went into the device. He said he read it so many times he nearly memorized it.

He attended High School in the Pittsburgh area (class of 1946). During those years Harley built audio amplifiers from radio parts, showing his expertise in hollow state technology. He remembered that he helped a science teacher equip a science lab. In both his Junior and Senior years (1945-1946), Harley built science fair display-projects. Although his projects didn't win awards, Harley was recognized for his ability to explain electronics theory and the fundamentals of electronic circuits.

Harley picked up his "First Phone License" at the age of 17. During college years, Harley joined the civil air patrol, and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Engineering-Physics (1950).

For his ROTC commitment he served 21 months in the Air Force, but instead of Korea he was in New Mexico as an instructor. On the GI bill he obtained his MS in Science and Engineering-Physics. He had positions with IBM, Westinghouse, and Philco. A job with Fairchild Semiconductor brought him to the west coast.

By 1966 he found himself at OSU, and by 1973 had become the Electrical Engineering Department Assistant Department Head. In 1973 he moved to work at Tektronix where he managed Component Engineering and was at TEK until 1982. While there, he met and married his wife Harriet (1973). Also while at TEK he met and worked with other radio collectors and helped form the NWVRS. In 1982 his wife took a job in Boston, and after the move Harley took a job at Northrup (eventually Northrup Grumman) . In 1999 when they both retired they moved to Vermont. In 2013 they returned to the Portland area to near to other family members.

Source material: Harriet Ries, An interview with Dick Karman in 2004, An interview with Jerry Hertel in 2017. The society archives, and the Call Letter archive.

100 years ago in Portland

By Art Redman

The Ever-Set Detector and Supply Company

The *Ever-Set Detector and Supply* laboratory was located at 308 First Street in Portland, Oregon. The company manufactured two radio products; a fixed crystal detector and a crystal set: the *"Jumbo Junior* in late 1922 and 1923. It was headed by two Chinese American citizens Seid G. Back, a lawyer and prominent member of the Portland Chinese community, and a partner Bert L. Dolloff.

The fixed detector was an improvement on the carborundum detector and was no larger than a penny matchbox and could take *"rough treatment"* from radio listeners. The Ever-Set Company claimed that their detector *"rectifies signals better than any crystal detector on the market"* and a radio listener will have "*no more detector troubles, no more fussing".* A patent was sought for the device.

Seid Black gave up advertising his radio company sometime during 1923, to concentrate on his cannery, hop growing business, and real estate interests.

(see newspaper article on page 12)

Tube of the Month – Type 35

Submitted by Bob Deuel

The type 35 is a remote-cutoff, variable mu variant of the 24A announced by RCA in 1931. Nearly all 35's found today have a standard cylindrical control grid and closely resemble the 24A.

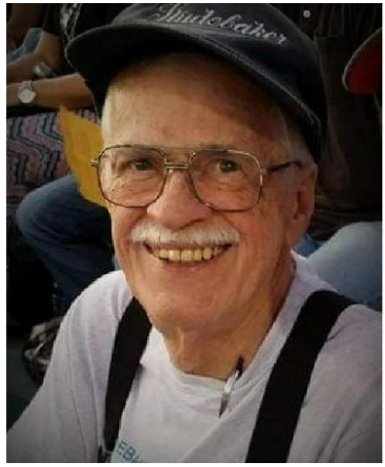
However, there is an extremely rare variant that most tube collectors are unaware of. The 35 was initially designed to have a uniform pitch winding wound in a conical diameter shape. As the first production units were being manufactured, they found that it was nearly impossible (and very expensive) to mass-produce a conical shape grid. RCA's engineers quickly redesigned the grid to a uniform diameter with a variable pitch grid winding making the tube much easier to produce.

The conical grid Type 35 was only produced for about a month before the design was changed. Conical grid tubes are easy to spot because of their unique huge elongated hex openings in the top of the internal shield. In the top view shown here, the rare conical grid Type 35 is shown on the left and the common type 35 is shown on the right.

In Memory

Wayne Limbaugh

March 19, 1934 - Aug. 26, 2022



Wayne passed away in August of last year. This is the first that we heard of it. It was confirmed by his daughter Jennifer.

Wayne was born in Vancouver, Wash., and graduated from Sandy Union High School.

He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1953 and specialized in electronics and radar equipment. He worked for the OECO Corporation in electromagnetics design for over 30 years.

Wayne was civic minded and held the position of Scoutmaster in Milwaukie for the Boy Scouts of America (in the day when it was proud of being a moral organization). He enjoyed his membership in the Studebaker Drivers Club, and had a great tenor singing voice.

He was married to Joyce (Malone) from 1953 until her passing in 2004. Wayne is survived by his children, Christine, Curtis, Donald, and Jennifer; grandchildren, great and great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his siblings, James and Diane; son, Charles; and grandson, Charles.

The NW Vintage Radio Society sends March Birthday Wishes to: James Harper
Ray Holland
Pat Kagi
Kiduk Ki
Charles Ross
Jon Tippin

If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter please let the board know at patkagi@yahoo.com

Honorary Members

An honorary member is defined in our society documents thus: Honorary membership shall be conferred upon and retained by those individuals who, in the eyes of the regular members, have contributed much to the state of the art of radio broadcasting, communications, or other fields relating to the historical aspects of this organization.

These are the honorary members that have been documented through the years (in no particular order):

Wilbur J Jerman- A Portland radio pioneer starting at Stubbs Electric and continuing on to own and operate KWJJ. Mr. Jerman spoke to our Society at least twice in the early years. In 2001 Mr. Jerman entertained friends for his 100th birthday. In 2004, Wilbur Jeffery Jerman became a silent key.

Dexter Bartlett- Mr. Bartlett was a radio show reviewer for the Oregonian in the 1930s in Portland, as well as a Radio historian and collector. He was active in Marconi's Cronies with folks like Wilbur Jerman, Dexter Bartlet and Tech Sloat. He often contributed knowledge and opinions to the Society and the Call Letter. He passed away in 1982.

Francis Sloat- Mr. Sloat, "Tech" was a member for many years and spoke of the early days of a loose society called Marconi's Cronies. Several Society early members attended the semi-regular luncheon meetings. Mr. Sloat was born in Hood River in 1905. In 1924 he moved to the Portland area to help move and rebuild station KQP (forerunner of KOIN). He was an honored speaker at several of our meetings. (NWVRS library has a DVD of his 1991 presentation to the society.) He passed away in January 1999.

Partners Macdonald, and Jackson- JAMAC speaker repair and reconing supported us for many years by advertising in the Call Letter and teaching members the finer points of reconing. Ron Jackson gave presentations at meetings. In 1989 Jamac was made an honorary member.

Bill Baker- William Warrant "Bill" Baker was a charter member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Born in 1922, he was a graduate of Benson Polytechnic High School. Bill traveled great distances in search of radios, but he was also an Ambassador for the society. He brought members in from across the Pacific Northwest. Bill passed away in 1991 and his wife Florence who maintained his membership status passed in 2009.

Virginia Rankin- Virginia was the wife of Hugh Rankin. Virginia and Hugh were brought to the society by Tom and Dorothy James. Hugh contributed several history pieces to the Call Letter and was responsible for monthly features like "Our People" while Virginia wrote the "Power Supply" column. Hugh and Virginia were also responsible for the "Swap Shop" pages for several years. Hugh died suddenly in 1988. Virginia turned 100 in May of 2019, and passed away in 2021.

Dorothy James- Dorothy James was the wife of Tom James, a charter member. Tom was an officer in the society and instrumental in the completion of many society projects. He was the engineer of record on several of the early radio stations in Portland. Dorothy was one of the leaders of the "Power Supply" in the early years. This was the auxiliary who acted as hostesses to Society functions as well as serving beside their husbands in duties of the Society. Dorothy passed away in 1993.

James Lansing- Jim Lansing was the owner of the Altec Lansing company. Lansing Co. manufactured speakers for more than a dozen brand names of retail radio receivers in the 1930s through 1960s. He was invited to speak at the 1975 "Mall 205 Show." He was not able to attend the show, but was given an Honorary members, and contributed material to the Call Letter. His wife continued to receive the Call Letter even after his death.

Morgan McMahon- Mr. McMahon was an author of some of the first books about radio Collecting: *A Flick of the Switch*, and *Vintage Radio*. He was invited to our 1975 display at Mall 205, and arranged it as a book signing tour. Although he only attended a few events through the years, he was honored for his books and

dedication to the hobby of collecting. He died on May 20, 2017 at his home in Southern California at the age of 92.

Dr. John Nelson- Dr. Nelson W7AOB of Longview, WA, was a guest speaker at the May 1999 meeting, featuring his interaction with "Tech" Sloat, and Wilber Jerman. Dr. Nelson was a founding member of the Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Club and a key volunteer radio operator during the Vanport Flood in 1948. Dr. Nelson passed away in September of 2003.

James Mason- Jim Mason as a charter member of the society was instrumental in the early publication of the Call Letter. He was made an honorary member in 1992, and when he passed away in 1998, left a sizable bequest to the society for the purpose of insuring the longevity of the organization, and the uninterrupted publication of the Call Letter.

Craig Adams- Mr. Adams was a disc jockey on popular radio in the 1960s and 70s. He has become the subject matter expert on the "Top 40" culture in Portland as Rock and Roll reached its zenith, and the genre began to decline. Craig's position of historian has been used for research and entertainment often prior to 2010 when he shifted his attention to caring for his aging mother.

Ron Kramer- Mr. Kramer is the author of Pioneer Mikes, the history of radio and television broadcasting in Oregon. This reference work (and its parent document) has become the authority for early broadcasting and station licensing in Oregon. Ron's interest in collecting and sharing his research with the society have been appreciated and applauded through the years. He is currently the executive director of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Memories of the February Meeting

Two Portlanders Invent Ever-Set Detector.

Device Said to Eliminate Necessity of Finding the "Sensitive Spot."

A LITTLE device that its inventor says will add great impetus to radio telephony has just been produced by two Portlanders, Bert L Dolloff and Seld G. Back, native- born citizens of Chinese ancestry.

The invention is called the "ever-set detector." Its chief advantages: are the elimination of the necessity of finding a "sensitive spot" and of adjusting a "cat whisker." The new detector is not any larger than the ordinary penny match box and consists of very simple parts. The inventors declare there is nothing about it that can get out of order no matter how rough treatment may be given it.

Patents have been applied for and until these are granted the inventors are withholding any information that might betray their secret. They say, however, that the governing principle of the detector is the manner in which it is connected up with a carborundum equipment. This material is not being used successfully in the ordinary small detector..

A factory for the production of ever-set detectors on a large scale Is in contemplation, say the inventors. At present they are turning out a limited quantity at their laboratory. 308 First street. The claim is made that the ever-set detector rectifies signals better than any "crystal" detector on the market.

From the Oregon Journal November 26, 1922.
Exhumed from the archive by Charter Member Art Redman

April Radio/Phonograph Swap Meet

NWVRS & OTAPS

Plan now for April 8, 2023 in Aurora, Oregon

Tables available – order your space today

Contact Scott Thomas by email wst123@comcast.net

All Boys and Girls, Aged 7 to 15,
Will Be Admitted at Half Price to the

Radio Show

on Thursday, Dec. 30, 1922

With our compliments

To see Demonstration of our exhibit of our "Ever-Set" Detector for crystal set.

Ten "Jumbo Jr.'s" crystal sets and "Ever-Set" Detectors, our own manufacture, Given Away Absolutely Free to the lucky boys and girls.

"EVER-SET" Detector & Supply Co.

Seid G. Back, Pres.

303 First St., Portland, Or.

(Present this coupon at ticket office and exchange it for admission ticket.)

Radio Show

PLEASE ADMIT

Name .....

Address .....

at half price, with our compliments.

SEID G. BACK

"Ever-Set" Detector Supply Co.
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Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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